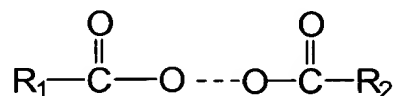


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for removing stains from fabrics and improving fabric color safety, said method comprising the step of contacting a soiled fabric with a bleaching composition comprising a diacyl peroxide of general formula:



wherein R₁ is an aliphatic group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and is selected from either linear, branched, cyclic, saturated, unsaturated, substituted, unsubstituted or mixtures thereof and R₂ is an aromatic group selected from mono or polycyclic ring, homo or heteroatomic, substituted or unsubstituted or mixtures thereof; and wherein said composition ~~having~~ has a pH of between about 2 to about 5.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1 wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently substituted with a halide, sulphur-containing functionality, nitrogen-containing functionality, or an alkyl chain wherein the number of carbon atoms in the alkyl chain ranges from 1 to 20.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the diacyl peroxide is benzoyl alkanoyl peroxide wherein the alkanoyl group has from 8 to 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the diacyl peroxide is selected from the group consisting of benzoyl lauroyl peroxide, benzoyl decanoyl peroxide, benzoyl cetoyl peroxide, para-alkyl benzoyl lauroyl peroxide, para-alkyl benzoyl decanoyl peroxide, and para-alkyl benzoyl cetoyl peroxide.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the bleaching composition is aqueous.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein the bleaching composition comprises at least one surfactant.

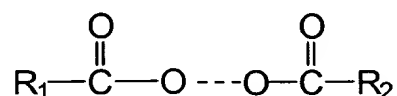
Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1 wherein said R_1 is an aliphatic group having from 4 to 20 carbons.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 4 wherein said number of carbon atoms in said alkyl chain ranges from 4 to 12.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim 6 wherein said alkyl is a pentyl ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method for removing stains from fabrics and improving fabric color safety, said method comprising the step of contacting a soiled fabric with an aqueous liquid bleaching composition comprising:

- 1) from 0.05% to 10%, by weight of the composition, of a stain removal and fabric color improving agent consisting essentially of a diacyl peroxide of general formula



wherein R₁ is an aliphatic group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and is linear, branched, cyclic, saturated, unsaturated, substituted, unsubstituted or mixtures thereof, and R₂ is an aromatic group and is mono or polycyclic ring, homo or heteroatomic, substituted or unsubstituted, or mixtures thereof,

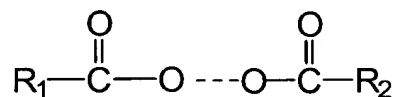
- 2) from 0.01% to 30%, by weight of the composition, of a bleach activator, and
- 3) a surfactant system comprised of at least one surfactant, and
- 4) optionally, one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of chelating agent, radical scavenger, foam suppressor, soil suspending polymer, polymeric soil release agent, dye transfer inhibiting agent, optical brightener, and bleach catalyst,

wherein said composition has a pH of from 2 to 5.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12 wherein said surfactant system comprises at least two surfactants, one of which is hydrophobic with an HLB less than or equal to 9, and another of which is hydrophilic with an HLB greater than 10.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 12, wherein the bleaching composition further comprises a peroxygen bleach other than an aliphatic-aromatic diacyl peroxide.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method for removing stains from fabrics and improving fabric color safety, said method comprising the step of contacting a soiled fabric with a stain removal and fabric color safety improving agent consisting essentially of from 0.05% to 10%, by weight of the composition, of a diacyl peroxide of general formula



wherein R₁ is an aliphatic group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms and is linear, branched, cyclic, saturated, unsaturated, substituted, unsubstituted or mixtures thereof, and R₂ is an aromatic group and is mono or polycyclic ring, homo or heteroatomic, substituted or unsubstituted or mixtures thereof,

wherein said agent is provided in a composition having a pH of from 2 to 5.